

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 191340Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1893
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 286

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NL, PINT, MPOL, IT, XF
SUBJ: THE NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT

1. IN THE COURSE OF CALL BY THE DIRECTOR OF EUR/NE ROBERT
FUNSETH, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ITALIANER, IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS. THEY WERE KEYED TO
THE POLICY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. DUTCH DEFENSE EFFORT: THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, KRUISINGA
SEEMS ANXIOUS TO ENSURE A RESPECTABLE DEFENSE EFFORT. THE PROBLEM
WILL BE FUNDS. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT TO WHAT EXTENT
THE FINANCE MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE REQUESTS
OF HIS DEFENSE COLLEAGUE WHO, LIKE ALL NEW MINISTERS, IS HARD
AT WORK READING INTO HIS NEW JOB. KRUISINGA WILL ALSO HAVE
TO MAKE UP HIS MIND ABOUT PRIORITIES. THERE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE
ANY DUTCH INITIATIVE AT THE NATO WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAAUW: AS THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT
TO PARLIAMENT INDICATES, THERE WILL BE NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES
IN FOREIGN POLICY. THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN STYLE. ITALIANER
LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS STILL FEELING HIS WAY IN
EVALUATING HIS NEW MINISTER.

4. CSCE: EVIDENTLY SOMEWHAT UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT,

ITALIANER VOICED SATISFACTION THAT BELGRADE SEEMS TO HAVE PROGRESSED WITHOUT A MAJOR BLOW-UP. THE RUSSIANS WERE STILL THERE AND TALKING. THE DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE HAD RECENTLY BEEN HOME TO TOUCH BASE WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER. IT WAS CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG STANDS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE HIS BELGRADE COLLEAGUES.

5. EC-9: THE GON CONTINUES TO PURSUE EUROPEAN UNITY BUT HAS FEW ILLUSIONS. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HELD UNTIL 1979. IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO GENERATE PUBLIC INTEREST. ITALIANER REFERRED TO A GROWING TENDENCY TO ACCACH CONDITIONS TO THE PURSUIT OF EUROPEAN UNITY. HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE LINE OF SOME DUTCH SOCIALISTS, SUCH AS VAN DER HEK, WHO AGREED THAT EUROPEAN UNITY DESERVES SUPPORT ONLY TO THE EXTENT IT CAN GIVE ADEQUATE SCOPE TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT. MIDDLE EAST: THE ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE GOVERNMENTS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN DELIBERATE. THE MFA HAD WISHED TO AVOID THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS SENSITIVE JUNCTURE. PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, REQUIRED A REPLY WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN LATER IN THE DAY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS. ITALIANER LEFT THE IMPRESSION THE GON WANTS TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE FOR THE TIME BEING.

6. ITALY: WITH THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS THERE HAD BEEN NO REAL CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE MINISTRY OR ELSEWHERE IN THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ITALY. ITALIANER
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AGREED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE PRESS INTEREST AS WELL. HE SPOKE IN NEUTRAL TERMS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON ITALY AND SAID THE DUTCH WERE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY.
MCCLOSKEY

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